

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 16, 2022 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council roll call:

Matthew Welch, President – present
Neil McCauley, Vice President - present
Robert Myers, Member – present
Mary Ann Cotter, Member - present

Thomas Brungard, Member – present
Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present
Alen Harris, Member - present

Also, in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Michael Gombar, Solicitor
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager

Call to Order: President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Reverend Alen Harris.

Visitor(s): Nancy Kauffman, Russell and Susie Lander, Ken Long, Christen Thompson, Tony and Brenda Tucci, Frank Nefos, Don Wary, Dave and LaLonnice Chaney, Maria Satiro, Brad Cosgrove (TowerDirect)

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Ambulance Service Presentation

Brad Cosgrove, Chief Director of TowerDirect, was present to provide information regarding TowerDirect's ambulance service. Noting the below regarding TowerDirect:

- They had an estimated 29,000 calls a year
- There is full support of the Tower Health hospital system
- Access to critical care teams, including a critical care nurse, to provide advanced care
- Triaging capabilities
- TowerDirect plans to be based out of Birdsboro in the NAPA store development
- If TowerDirect cannot respond Life Lion will cover
- Cumru, Brecknock, Shillington, Robeson and Mohnton utilize TowerDirect

Councilwoman Cotter noted that a new contract would begin in March and asked the possibility of prorating the fees and Mr. Cosgrove noted that should not be an issue. Councilwoman Cotter asked the response time and Mr. Cosgrove noted it is two minutes or less.

Councilman McCauley asked if they would have an ambulance to participate in the Christmas in Birdsboro event and Mr. Cosgrove noted that would possible as long as they are not out on a call.

Council requested a few revisions to be made to the proposed agreement. Solicitor Gombar will make the revisions and submit to Council for action at the next Council meeting.

Minutes– December 5, 2022 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the December 5, 2022 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0. Amending being adding Mayor Scioli to the attendees list.

Minutes– January 3, 2023 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the January 3, 2023 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0. Amendments being change votes from seven votes to six votes as President Welch was absent and under Old Business, Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee, note that it was a 6-0 vote as Councilwoman Cotter did not abstain.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills List dated January 16, 2023 and Checks for Ratification dated January 4, 2023– January 15, 2023. Motion carried 7-0 for all the payments except for the payment to the American Legion Post 626 for the \$10,000 donation which is a 6-0-1 vote with Councilman Myers abstaining due to his involvement with the American Legion Post 626.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated January 16, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager’s Report

- **Adopt Parade Ordinances – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the amended parade ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Health Officer Certification** – Manager Yanos noted that Health Officer Kenneth Long is agreeable to obtaining the required health officer certifications, which is on-line training, civil service exam and submittal of application from the Borough.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Trupp reviewed his monthly report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.

Adopt Resolution 2023-19 – Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement – License Plate Reader Project

MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve Resolution 2023-19 for the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement–License Plate Reader Project. Motion carried 7-0

Municipal Services / Department Reports

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Report included in the Council packet

- **Water Treatment Plant:** Report included in the Council packet
- **Streets Department:** Report included in the Council packet

Recreation Board

- Christen Thompson, Recreation Board Chair, noted that the Recreation Board is applying for a grant through Pottstown Health and Wellness for outdoor fitness equipment for Rustic Park.

Emergency Management: Report is in the Council packet

Fire Department: Report is in the Council packet

Solicitor's Report: No new report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Brungard noted revisions that could be made to make the Borough website more user friendly. Councilman Brungard noted that he felt that the Borough employees should have a holiday for Martin Luther King Day. The matter will be discussed at next council meeting.
- Councilman Elgonitis noted that Mr. Cosgrove, Tony Tucci and Councilman Harris have worked together to resolve the ambulance service matter. Also, noted is a Girl Scouts Glow in the Park event on April 1 and Councilman Elgonitis asked Council for permission to use Main Bird Park for this event from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to allow Main Bird Park to be used April 1 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. for the Girl Scouts Glow in the Park event. Motion carried 7-0.
- Vice President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked TowerDirect for their presentation, thanked Western Berks for attending this evening's meeting and thanked all of those in attendance.
- Councilman Harris thanked all first responders and noted the decision to be made regarding ambulance is to be made in the best interest of the residents.

Old Business: No old business

Public Comment

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, asked the annual cost for the TowerDirect ambulance service and it was noted the annual cost is \$90,630, \$7,555.20 per month, with a resident cost of \$45.
- Brian Bill, 251 Hopewell Street, noted concern of speeding on Hopewell Street. Chief Trupp will install the speed signs and gather the stats for the next council meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary